



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
65TH AIR BASE WING (USAFE)
LAJES FIELD AZORES PORTUGAL

Table of Contents (Click to jump to section)

[Lajes Field Transition Information](#)

[Current Situation](#)

[Employment Positions](#)

[Operations & Airfield Impact](#)

[For Families](#)

Lajes Field Transition Information

- Department of Defense officials announced Dec. 13, 2012, that Lajes Field will transition from an air base wing to an air base group with a reduction of more than 400 military personnel and 500 family members by the end of fiscal year 2014.
- The 65 ABW will remain a fully-functioning air base wing until Summer 2014.
- Approximately 160 U.S. Air Force personnel and DoD civilians will remain at Lajes Field after the transition.
- Lajes Field remains an important location providing base and en-route support for the Department of Defense, allied nations and other authorized aircraft transiting to and from the United States.

Current Situation

- 65th Air Base Wing and Headquarters Azores Air Zone officials work together during the planning of the Lajes Field transition.

- 65 ABW and HAAZ officials intend to retain as many Azorean local national jobs as possible.
- 65 ABW actively supports the U.S. Embassy – Lisbon’s plans to work with the Portuguese government and local community to mitigate the transition’s economic impact.

Employment Positions

- The new air base group mission requirements will determine which U.S. and Portuguese job positions remain after the transition.
- United States Air Forces in Europe planning officials are finalizing the air base group’s unit manning document, based on mission requirements.
- Every required position within the newly formed 65th Air Base Group, for which Portuguese employees qualify, will be filled by Portuguese local nationals.
- 65 ABW officials expect all Portuguese employees to continue working through 2013. Employee reductions are scheduled to begin in 2014, and must be complete by Summer 2014.
- The number of appropriated funds and non-appropriate funds Portuguese employees are still being determined.
- For any position reductions, labor agreement rules regarding personnel will be followed throughout the process.

Operations & Airfield Impact

- 65 ABW officials are working to ensure that Lajes airfield’s viability remains intact despite the wing’s transition to a group.

For Families

- Lajes Field remains a 15-month unaccompanied and 24-month accompanied. Families are encouraged to come to Lajes through Summer 2013.
- U.S. families will remain at Lajes Field until the Summer 2014.
- U.S. families will move through natural attrition based on the permanent change of station cycle. Airmen and families with DEROS' after September 30, 2014 will be handled case-by-case.